

Making the Sense of Census

Probability and Statistics

Unit 1.1

Name _____

Date _____

From “Statistics Through Application” 1.1 P. 15, 16 (Updated for current world populations)

The U.S. Census Bureau website contains a vast amount of data about the U.S. population. In this application you will take a closer look at where these data come from.

1. Go to the Census Bureau’s site at www.census.gov
2. Use the “Population Clocks” section of the site to answer the following questions:
 - A. What is the current U.S. Population?
 - B. What is the current World Population?
 - C. How is the U.S. Population obtained?
 - D. When did the world population reach 6 billion?
3. Click on the link for “[2010 Census](#)” (Bottom of the page under *Find Data*)
 - A. Under “Census Briefs and Reports” click on “[Population Distribution and Change: 2000 to 2010](#)”
 - I. What was the US Population in:
 - a. 2010
 - b. 2000
 - II. What was Connecticut’s Population in:
 - a. 2010
 - b. 2000
 - III. What was the fastest-growing Metropolitan Statistical Area in the US?
 - a. What percent did it increase?
 - b. What could have been a factor or factors for this growth?

- B. Click on “[The Hispanic Population](#)” report.
 - I. What is the US census definition of “of Hispanic or Latino Origin”?
 - II. What percentage of the US Population was Hispanic or Latino in 2010?
 - III. Which population type represented the largest portion of the Hispanic or Latino population in 2010? What percentage of the Hispanic or Latino population did they represent?
 - IV. Which population subgroup grew by the largest percentage from 2000 to 2010? By what percentage did they grow?
 - V. How did the Census Bureau obtain this information?
 - a. How might this lead to under-reporting of the actual Hispanic or Latino population numbers?
- 4. Click on the “[American Community Survey](#)” (ACS) link (Bottom of the page under *PEOPLE & HOUSEHOLDS*)
 - A. Why does the Census Bureau conduct surveys such as the ACS?
 - B. How many people does the ACS survey, and how are they selected? (Found in *Methodology*)
 - C. In the 2014 State Ranking Tables there is a study of *Average Household Size*
 - I. What is the average household size in the US?
 - II. What states have an average household size that is larger than the US Average?
 - III. Is there a geographic region of the US that is more likely to have a larger household size?

5. Find the “[Educational Attainment](#)” report from 2015. (Main Menu top of page click on *Topics* then *Education* then *Educational Attainment* then *Report*)
- A. In the *Highlights* portion of the report there is a claim that “Native adults were more likely to have a high school education or higher but were no more likely than foreign-born adults to hold an advanced degree.” How is this claim supported by the statistical data of the report?

EXTENTION: Find an area of the Census Bureau that is of particular interest to you. Then identify data points that relate to this variable.

- A. What is the population?
- B. What is the sample?
- C. What is the variable? Is it Categorical or Quantitative?
- D. How was this data obtained by the study?
- E. What are some conclusions that you can draw from this data? How can those claims be supported by the statistical data of the report?

